

Clean copy of new claims

47. A method comprising the steps of:

providing a self-service checkout terminal having a scanner that enters items for purchase and a scale that weighs items on a post-scan surface;

providing a security system that differentiates between entered and non-entered items placed on the post-scan surface;

wherein said security system employs the scale to detect the removal of an item from the post scan surface, and the replacement of an item on the post-scan surface.

48. The method of claim 47 including the further step of providing an automated teller machine to pay for entered items placed on the post-scan surface.

49. The method of claim 47 including the further step of providing a cash acceptor to pay for entered items placed on the post-scan surface.

50. The method of claim 49 including the further step of providing a currency dispenser to return change when a user inserts currency into the cash acceptor.

51. The method of claim 50 including the further step of providing a coin dispenser to return change when a user inserts currency into the cash acceptor.

52. A method comprising the steps of:

providing a self-service checkout terminal having a scanner that enters items for purchase and a scale that weighs items on a post-scan surface;

providing a security system that employs the scale to detect the removal of an item from the post-scan surface, and the replacement of an item on the post-scan surface;

wherein said security system generates a match signal when an item removed from the post-scan surface is placed back on the post-scan surface.

53. The method of claim 52 in which the security system concludes that a user has permanently removed an item from the post-scan surface if another item is entered before the match signal is generated.

54. The method of claim 52 in which the security system concludes whether any unaccounted for item or items have been placed on the post-scan surface based on a recorded history of readings of the scale.

55. A method comprising the steps of:

providing a self-service checkout terminal having a scanner that enters items for purchase and a scale that weighs items on a post-scan surface;

providing a security system that employs the scale to detect the removal of an item from the post-scan surface, and the replacement of an item on the post-scan surface;

wherein said security system generates an improper-use signal if an item removed from the post-scan surface is replaced by an item having a different weight.

56. A method comprising the steps of:

providing a self-service checkout terminal having a scanner that enters items for purchase and a scale that weighs items on a post-scan surface;

providing a security system that employs the scale to detect the removal of an item from the post-scan surface, and the replacement of an item on the post-scan surface;

wherein said security system generates an improper-use signal if an item removed from the post-scan surface is replaced by an item having a greater weight.

57. The method of claim 56 in which, if an item removed from the post-scan surface is replaced by an item having a greater weight, the security system instructs a user to remove the latter item from the post-scan surface.

58. A method comprising the steps of:

providing a self-service checkout terminal having a scanner that enters items for purchase and a scale that weighs items on a post-scan surface;

providing a security system that employs the scale to detect the removal of an item from the post-scan surface, and the replacement of an item on the post-scan surface;

wherein said security system generates an improper-use signal if an item removed from the post-scan surface is replaced by an item having a lesser weight.

59. A method comprising the steps of:

providing a self-service checkout terminal having a scanner that enters items for purchase and a scale that weighs items on a post-scan surface;

providing a security system that employs the scale to detect the placement of one or more unentered items on the post-scan surface of the self-service checkout terminal;